

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Information Letter

FOR N. C. A. MEMBERS

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CONTENTS

Page	Page
Prospects for Italian tomato products exports	1209
Hail blight of beans serious	1210
Truck crop markets	1210
Business conditions	1211
Spread of the Mexican bean beetle	1212
Navy's annual canned food purchases	1213
Freight loss and damage claims reduced	1213
Florida truck crop prospects	1213
Fall crop of snap beans	1214
Condition of California carrots and tomatoes	1214
Canned foods exports in September	1214
Conditions in Japanese crab and salmon canning industries	1215
Salmon pack to October 1	1215
British Columbian salmon pack	1215
Australian duty on tomato puree	1215
Progress on can simplification work	1216
Publications noted	1216

Prospects for Italian Tomato Products Exports

Exports of canned tomatoes and tomato paste from Italy to the United States during the coming year will be considerably less than in previous years because of a marked decrease in the Italian production of tomatoes suitable for exporting abroad, and especially to the United States, in the form of canned peeled tomatoes, according to a report from the American Consul at Naples.

In the Campania district, of which Naples is the center and which is the most important for tomatoes in all Italy, the crop is about one-third larger than in normal years. On the other hand the crop in Puglia is only one-third of normal, in Sicily about one-fourth, and in the Parma district about one-third of normal.

It is reported that while the canneries regret the loss of trade with the United States they are endeavoring to make up for this by an increased domestic trade, and that they are now producing a much larger quantity of "double-concentrated" sauce for consumption in the home market. Moreover, efforts are being directed to increase the sale of Italian tomato products in other markets, such as South American countries and Northern Europe, which offer favorable opportunities for the expansion of Italian trade. It is reported that the efforts of Italian exporters in cultivating these newer markets, especially in such South American countries, are meeting with considerable success.

Halo Blight of Beans Serious

A survey of commercial bean fields in Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado, made by Florence Hedges, associate pathologist, laboratory of plant pathology, Bureau of Plant Industry, revealed total loss of large acreages in Wyoming and Colorado due to halo blight, a bacterial disease which under certain conditions is capable of assuming alarming proportions, according to the "Official Record" of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The disease is seed-borne, a few infected seed being sufficient to start the disease in a field, though the extent of its ravages depends on a number of factors, important among which is weather.

In Montana the disease, though widespread, was much less severe this year than last. The bean acreage in Montana was considerably less this year than last; farmers lost heavily on account of this disease in 1927 and were unwilling to risk another failure. The same disease was very severe in some parts of the trucking sections of Florida and Georgia this spring and widespread in the canning districts of Wisconsin, though doing comparatively little damage in Wisconsin this year.

Owing to the general practice of shipping bean seed from one part of the country to another, the situation is very serious, the "Official Record" states, and measures must be taken to clean up the seed stocks, either by certifying that the seed placed on the market is taken from fields either free from or with a minimum of disease or by growing them in disease-free areas not chronically subject to hailstorms and other adverse weather conditions.

Truck Crop Markets

Total carlot movement of fruits and vegetables was decreasing during the week ended October 20, as is usual after the annual peak is passed. After December, output frequently increases again. Combined forwardings of 29 important products filled 31,850 cars last week, or 4,800 less than the week before. Recent weekly volume has been about 4,000 cars lighter than a year ago, because of the lighter movement of potatoes, sweet potatoes, grapes, onions and cabbage. This total of nearly 32,000 cars included 10,200 carloads of apples, 8,100 of grapes, and 6,200 of potatoes.

Movement of new-crop citrus, particularly Florida grapefruit, was becoming very active. More than 700 cars of grapefruit and considerable quantities of early oranges came from Florida last week, though California was the chief source of

orange supply. Reports from Florida indicate prospects for commercial shipments of 11,000,000 boxes of oranges and 7,000,000 of grapefruit this season, or one-tenth less than was expected before the hurricane. Southern Texas may have 650,000 boxes of grapefruit and 40,000 of oranges this year. Texas is becoming increasingly important as a producer of citrus and last season shipped 1,040 cars of grapefruit.

Cabbage markets did not show much strength, though prices were still about double those of a year ago. Much Wisconsin cabbage was going into storage. Total shipments for the week decreased one-fourth to 960 cars, whereas last season the corresponding figure was 1,610 cars. Wisconsin started 425 to market, New York 225, and Minnesota 125 cars.

Forwardings of apples decreased only slightly to 10,170 cars. Western states furnished 4,980 and eastern sections the heavy total of 5,190 cars.

Commodity	CARLOT SHIPMENTS					
	Oct. 14-20 1928	Oct. 7-13 1928	Oct. 16-22 1927	Total this season to Oct. 20	Total last season to Oct. 22	Total last season
Apples, total	10,167	10,910	7,901	56,180	41,745	93,978
Eastern	5,187	5,827	3,465	31,015	24,265	44,403
Western	4,980	5,053	4,436	25,115	18,480	45,670
Asparagus	8	5	8	2,859	2,129	2,182
Cantaloupes	6	46	0	29,122	30,341	30,341
Cabbage	958	1,353	1,612	26,378	25,429	25,067
Carrots:						
1929 season	88	95	(a)	247	(a)	2,968
1928 season	88	120	(a)	5,868	(a)	6,552
Green peas	23	30	25	4,016	4,167	4,147
Mixed deciduous fruit	47	75	46	6,122	5,226	5,408
Mixed vegetables	346	397	446	28,619	26,317	25,650
Peaches	39	191	8	56,318	41,718	41,714
Pears	633	736	438	21,721	17,162	18,744
Peppers	84	57	98	3,355	2,614	2,824
Plums and prunes	18	46	9	7,114	5,973	5,988
Spinach	55	46	64	10,173	9,421	9,653
String beans	90	88	117	6,238	5,968	6,481
Tomatoes	492	559	707	25,336	31,017	32,064

(a) Unavailable

Business Conditions

The volume of business during the week ended October 20, as seen from data on check payments, was greater than in the previous week but showed a small decline from the corresponding period of last year, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. The general level of wholesale prices receded somewhat from the previous week but was still above the corresponding period of 1927.

The value of new building awards during the week showed a higher daily average than in the previous week, but was lower than in the corresponding week of last year. Interest rates for time funds showed a decline from the previous week but were

higher than a year ago. Call-loan rates, however, showed no change from the previous week but were higher than last year. Stock prices averaged higher than in either the previous week or the same period of 1927. Freight-car loadings for the latest available week were larger than last year.

CAR LOADINGS		MERCHANDISE		
	Total	Miscellaneous	L. C. L.	Other
Week ended October 13	1,190,127	479,012	289,354	441,780
Preceding week	1,186,598	473,624	271,193	441,781
Corresponding week, 1927	1,120,007	433,366	266,544	416,597
Corresponding week, 1926	1,202,780	461,556	270,376	470,978

Spread of the Mexican Bean Beetle

A major movement of the Mexican bean beetle to the east is shown in reports so far received, and the spread has entered new territory in both New York and Michigan, two of the leading bean producing States of the nation, according to the Bureau of Entomology, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The Department's statement follows:

Although only fragmentary reports have been received by the Department in the last year on the prevalence and spread of the Mexican bean beetle, enough information is in hand to show that the beetle has, as in the preceding year, greatly extended its territory to the east.

In addition to this major movement the insect has invaded new territory in both Michigan and New York, two of the leading bean-producing States in the country. While enlargement of the infested territory in these two States was in accordance with the past performance of the beetle, the extensive movement into the coastal plain was unexpected, as in the past the principal spread has been in the more mountainous territory, the coastal regions being invaded slowly and in smaller numbers. The coastal area, including New Jersey, and the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, is a heavy producer of green beans for both market and canning, and the appearance of the beetle has caused some apprehension on the part of the growers there.

Fortunately, the initial spread does not give a certain index to injury which may be expected in subsequent areas, and thus it is hoped that these regions will escape heavy injury as in the case along the coast farther to the south, where the beetle is a pest only sporadically and is not generally of widespread importance.

The ability of the pest to maintain its spread to the north and inland shows that low winter temperature alone can not be

depended upon to control the insect and that the only safe plan for growers in infested territory is to be prepared to apply remedies when necessary.

Navy's Annual Canned Food Purchases

In an address at Syracuse, N. Y., on October 11, Curtis D. Wilbur, Secretary of the Navy, gave some interesting figures on the amount of food consumed in a year by the men of the fleet, showing that canned meats, fruits and vegetables were purchased to the extent of 19,428,000 pounds. The following table gives the figures for the individual items in this total:

MEATS		FRUITS (cont.)	
	Pounds		Pounds
Bacon	295,000	Prunes	775,000
Beef, corned	881,000	Raisins	262,000
Codfish and haddock	56,000	Total	5,576,000
Salmon	647,000		
Sardines	117,000		
Sausage, Vienna	440,000		
Tongue, beef	840,000		
Total *	3,724,000		
FRUITS		VEGETABLES	
Apple sauce	640,000	Asparagus	550,000
Apricots	640,000	Beans, string	1,084,000
figs	340,000	Beets	610,000
Peaches	1,140,000	Corn	1,284,000
Pears	565,000	Peas	1,872,000
Pineapple	1,615,000	Pumpkins	280,000
		Sauerkraut	700,000
		Spinach	532,000
		Total	11,128,000

Freight Loss and Damage Claims Reduced

Freight claims paid by railroads during the first six months of 1928 growing out of loss and damage to freight shipments were the lowest for any corresponding period in recent years, according to the American Railway Association.

Claims paid during the first half of the year totaled \$18,834,897, compared with \$19,820,223 for the first six months in 1927 and \$19,084,004 for the same period in 1926.

Loss and damage claims growing out of delay totaled \$1,495,625, a reduction of \$488,141 compared with the corresponding period last year. Reductions were also reported in the amount of loss and damage claims growing out of robbery of freight.

Florida Truck Crop Prospects

The storm of September 16-17 damaged or destroyed early plantings of truck crops in Florida, and left much of the area usually planted to these crops too wet to plant. Acreage now planted to fall beans, cucumbers, eggplant and pepper is unusually light, with some planting still under way but much land

still too wet. The acreage of fall tomatoes on the lower East Coast is larger than usual and shipments from this early acreage will come off in November and December, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Fall Crop of Snap Beans

Production of the fall crop of snap beans in Louisiana, North and South Carolina and Texas is estimated by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics at 360,000 bushel hampers as compared with 469,000 hampers in 1927. The acreage in 1928 is 5,370 as compared with 6,640 in 1927.

Condition of California Carrots and Tomatoes

In all districts carrots are growing thrifitly and fields give promise at this date of yielding more crates to the acre than last fall, according to the California Cooperative Crop Reporting Service report for October 20. Planting for February and March harvest is starting. Present intentions in all districts indicate a large increase.

A sharp drop in the condition of fall tomatoes has occurred during the past two weeks. Yields in practically all districts have been far below expectations, due mainly to a light setting of fruit, small sizes, and the spread of Late Blight in some areas. In most districts a good late set is in evidence, but unless very favorable weather exists for the remainder of the season it is doubtful if this crop will attain the proper size.

Canned Foods Exports in September

The September export trade in canned foods was characterized by large increases, as compared with September of last year, in the shipments of canned vegetables, fruit and salmon. Detailed figures as compiled by the Department of Commerce follow:

	September, 1927 Pounds	September, 1928 Value	September, 1927 Pounds	September, 1928 Value
Canned meats, total	1,173,879	\$428,121	861,856	\$516,077
Beef	107,639	55,427	45,804	18,883
Sausage	217,299	61,760	182,105	71,810
Canned vegetables, total	8,281,872	778,627	12,204,424	1,037,297
Condensed milk	2,489,182	583,928	3,405,458	565,021
Evaporated milk	3,756,175	590,449	5,588,829	587,493
Canned fruits, total	27,300,987	2,302,942	38,764,871	3,318,257
Apricots	2,739,936	249,562	8,105,972	287,920
Peaches	9,136,064	721,882	11,914,632	949,569
Pears	6,429,168	642,451	18,705,684	1,221,581
Pineapple	7,082,707	564,817	7,884,466	621,477
Salmon	2,245,585	398,296	7,890,459	1,404,183
Sardines	6,574,831	552,379	4,888,565	419,380

Conditions in Japanese Crab and Salmon Canning Industries

Japanese crab canneries have been adversely affected by weather and labor troubles this year, according to cabled information received by the Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce from the American Commercial Attaché at Tokyo. Production is estimated at about 465,000 cases, or about 12 per cent below that of 1927. Stocks are now estimated at about 210,000 cases. Domestic and foreign demand is excellent.

Canned salmon production is estimated at 1,462,000 cases, including all size tins, or more than double the 1927 pack. Sixty-four per cent of the pack is red and 34 per cent pink. No definite data are available on stocks, but they are believed to be large, with a very small carryover from 1927. Prices are declining slightly.

Salmon Pack to October 1

Statistics on the American salmon pack as of October 1 have been issued by the Association of Pacific Fisheries, showing a total pack of 6,422,903 cases of all sizes of cans. This statement is based on reports from 108 concerns operating 177 canneries, and includes estimates of the packs of 28 small concerns operating 32 canneries. The pack, by varieties, was as follows: Chinooks or Kings, 300,879 cases; Puget Sound Sockeyes, 61,992; Alaska Reds, 1,906,102; Cohoes, Silvers, Medium Reds, 349,559; Pinks, 2,787,955; Chums, 988,414; Bluebacks, 10,300; Steelheads, 17,702.

British Columbian Salmon Pack

The salmon pack of British Columbia up to September 29 totaled 1,484,201 cases of 48 pounds each as follows: Sockeye, 196,861; Springs, 17,276; Steelheads, 960; Bluebacks, 7,351; Cohoe, 123,253; Pinks, 758,851; Chums, 379,649.

Australian Duty on Tomato Puree

The Australian customs authorities have issued regulations governing the duty on concentrated tomato puree, according to information in the Board of Trade Journal at London. Duty will be charged on the quantity of normal average tomato pulp which analysis shows the concentrated tomato puree to equal, provided that in cases where the manufacturer states a degree of concentration greater than shown by analysis, duty will be charged in accordance with the degree of concentration stated by the manufacturer.

Progress on Can Simplification Work

The monthly news bulletin of the Commercial Standards Group of the U. S. Bureau of Standards states that the survey which the Division of Simplified practice is conducting in the canning industry with regard to sizes of cans used in packing fruits, vegetables and fish has been completed, and that the results will be taken up with the can manufacturers with a view to checking the recommendation with their production before the matter is submitted to the canning industry for action.

Publications Noted

Stock Control.—The Domestic Commerce Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has issued as No. 3 of its distribution cost studies a 12-page pamphlet entitled "Retail Profits Through Stock Control." The pamphlet describes a method of record-keeping by which a retail merchant was enabled to pick out and discard items for which his customers made no demand, and to decrease his stocks of other items to a reasonable figure in view of the demand for each. This record thus made him able to place his orders for the items he carried in stock with the assurance that he was neither over nor under ordering.

Peaches.—The Bureau of Railway Economics in Washington is issuing a series of studies pertaining to commodity prices in their relation to transportation costs, and has recently published a bulletin on peaches. The first part of the bulletin deals with the prices paid to the growers, prices in the wholesale markets, prices in the retail markets, and freight rates on peaches from origin points to markets during the 1927 season. The second part of the bulletin presents information relating to production and distribution of the 1927 peach crop, together with comparative data over a period of years.

Raspberries and Cranberries.—Powdery mildew of raspberries is discussed in an article contributed to the September issue of "Phytopathology" by P. D. Peterson and H. W. Johnson of the Minnesota University Experiment Station. In the same issue there is also an article by Neil E. Stevens and Henry F. Bain, giving further results of their studies, begun in 1926, on the storage rots of cranberries. This work was carried on cooperatively by the Bureau of Plant Industry of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Wisconsin State Department of Agriculture.